

Practitioner's Docket No. U 014811-7

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re application of: Milan **VISNIC**, et al.
Serial No.: 10/661,102
Filed: September 12, 2003
For: WALL MEMBER

Group No.: 3637

Examiner:

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL OF CERTIFIED COPY

Attached please find the certified copy of the foreign application from which priority is claimed for this case:

Country: Australia

Application
Number: 2002 951379

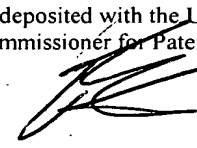
Filing Date: 13 September 2002

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. 1.8a)

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(Transmittal of Certified Copy—page 1 of 2) 5-4

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U014811-7
S.N. 10/661,102
Group No.: 3637

Patent Office
Canberra

I, JONNE YABSLEY, TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION SUPPORT AND SALES hereby certify that annexed is a true copy of the Provisional specification in connection with Application No. 2002951379 for a patent by MULTI SYSTEMS PTY LTD as filed on 13 September 2002.

WITNESS my hand this
SEVENTH day of October 2003

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J R Yabsley".

JONNE YABSLEY
TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION
SUPPORT AND SALES

ORIGINAL

AUSTRALIA

Patents Act 1990

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION FOR THE INVENTION ENTITLED:

A Wall Member

Name and Address of Applicant:

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Name of Inventor:

Milan Visnic

This invention is best described in the following statement:

A WALL MEMBER

Technical Field

The present invention relates to retaining walls.

Background of the Invention

5 Retaining walls are generally manufactured at the sight at which they are to remain. Frequently concrete is poured at the wall location, or the wall may be formed of building elements such as blocks or bricks again laid at the location of the wall.

The construction of the above mentioned walls is generally expensive and does not provide for services such as electricity and water.

Object of the Invention

10 It is the object of the present invention to overcome or substantially ameliorate at least one of the above disadvantages.

Summary of the Invention

15 There is disclosed herein a wall member for installation at a desired location, said wall member including;

an elongated base to rest on a supporting surface at said location;

a wall portion extending longitudinally of the base and upwardly thereof; and

wherein said base or wall portion is provided with a longitudinally extending passage or the provision of services.

20 Preferably, said passage is provided in said base and extends the entire length thereof.

In a further preferred form, said passage is located in said wall portion and extends the entire length thereof.

Preferably said base and/or said wall portion is cast of concrete.

25 In a further preferred form there is a plurality of passages extending longitudinally of said base and/or said wall portion.

In a further preferred form one of said passages is adapted to provide for the ducting of water, with said wall member having an outlet for water.

In a further preferred form one of said passages is provided for the ducting of electric cabling, and said member has an upwardly extending passage for the provision of a light to be connected to said cabling.

Brief Description of the Drawings

5 A preferred form of the present invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a schematic perspective view of a wall member;

Figure 2 is a schematic front elevation of the wall member of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a schematic end elevation of the wall member of Figure 1;

10 Figure 4 is a schematic perspective view of an alternative construction for the member of Figure 1;

Figure 5 is a schematic perspective view of a still further modification of the wall member of Figure 1;

15 Figure 6 is a schematic perspective view of a still further modification of the wall member of Figure 1;

Figure 7 is a schematic end elevation of a modification of the wall member of Figure 1; and

Figure 8 is a schematic end elevation of a still further modification of the wall member of Figure 1.

20 Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

In the accompanying drawings there is schematically depicted a wall member 10 that may be used with similar constructed wall members to form a retaining wall or similar type structure. The wall member 10 is preferably cast of concrete and is transported to the location at which it is to be installed. The wall member 10 is elongated and includes an elongated base 11 from which there upwardly extends a wall portion 12. 25 The base 11 has end faces 13 and side walls 14. Extending between the end faces 13 are recesses 15 while formed in the side walls 11 are recesses 16. The recesses 15 and 16 aid in reducing the overall weight of the wall member 10.

30 The base 11 and/or wall portion 12 is/are provided with one or more longitudinally extending passages 17. The passages 17 provide for the ducting of water and electricity to locations along the wall member 10 and the next adjacent wall member. For example the upper passage 17 may communicate with a vertically extending passage

provided with a water sprinkler outlet 18. In an alternative construction a vertical passage 19 may extend to the upper passage 17. The passage 19 being adapted to receive a light fitting 20. The passage 19 communicates with the passage 17 for the purposes of electrically cabling.

5 If so required the passages 17, 18 and 19 may be formed by plastic conduit.

If so required the wall member 20 may include reinforcing 21 in the form of mesh or reinforcing rod.

In the embodiment of Figures 4 and 5 the wall portion 12 is formed of synthetic or natural rock.

10 In the embodiment of Figure 6 the wall member 10 is curved.

In constructing a wall from a plurality of wall members 10, the end faces 13 abut so that the passages 17 of adjacent wall members 10 are aligned.

In the embodiment of Figure 5 the base 11 is formed of segments 21 that are angularly offset so that the wall member 10 may be used to form corners.

15 In the embodiment of Figure 7 the longitudinally extending recess 15 in the base 11 has been enlarged to aid in reducing the weight of the wall member 10.

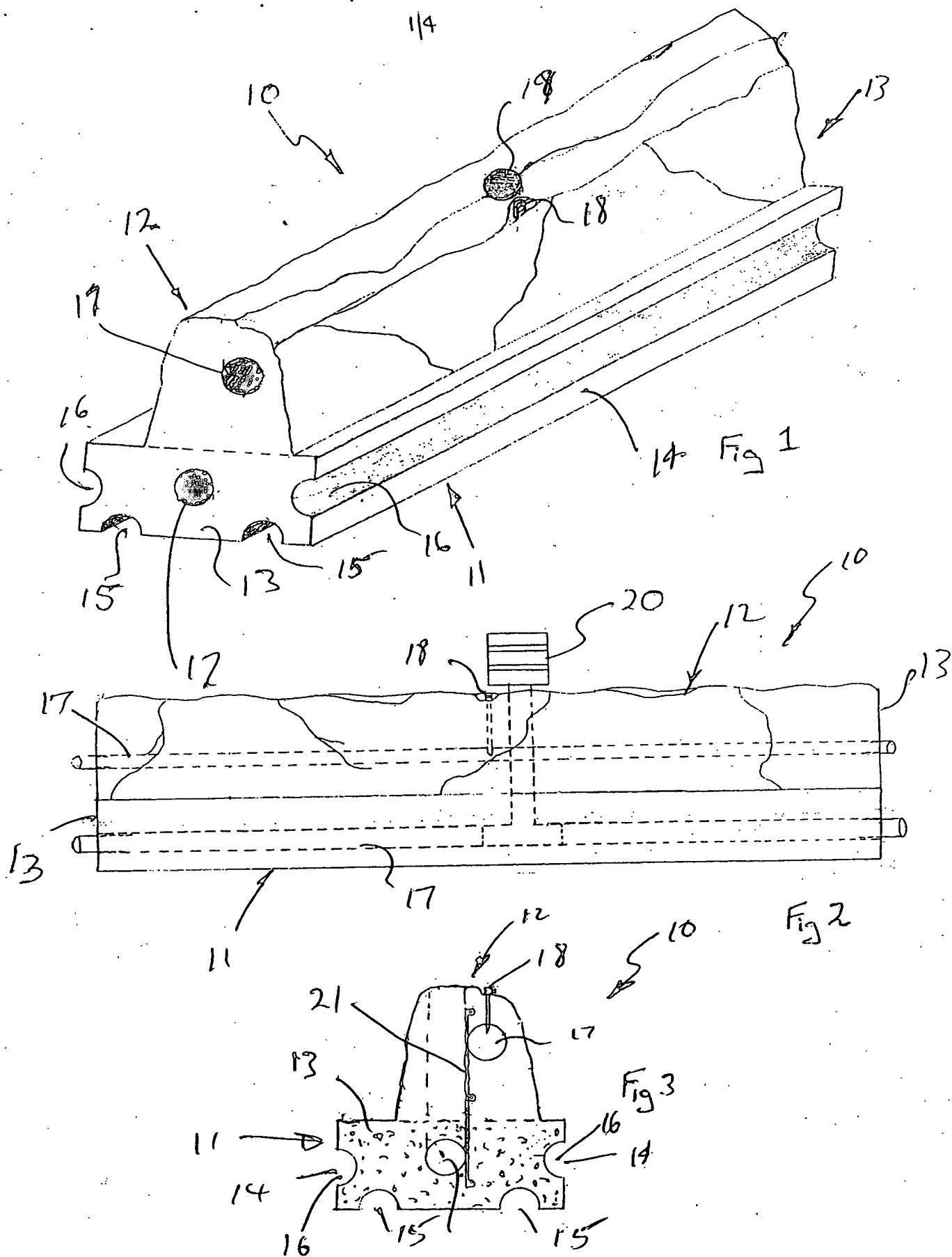
In the embodiment of Figure 8 the wall member 10 is adapted to rest on a footing 22. The footing 22 includes a base 23 from which there upwardly extends an engaging portion 24. In this embodiment, the engaging portion 24 is of an arcuate configuration and matches the arcuate configuration of the longitudinally extending recess 15 within which the engaging portion 14 securely locates. Also, in this embodiment there is embedded in the wall member 20 an insert 25 of lightweight material to aid in reducing the weight of the wall member 10. For example, the insert 25 may be formed of expanded polystyrene.

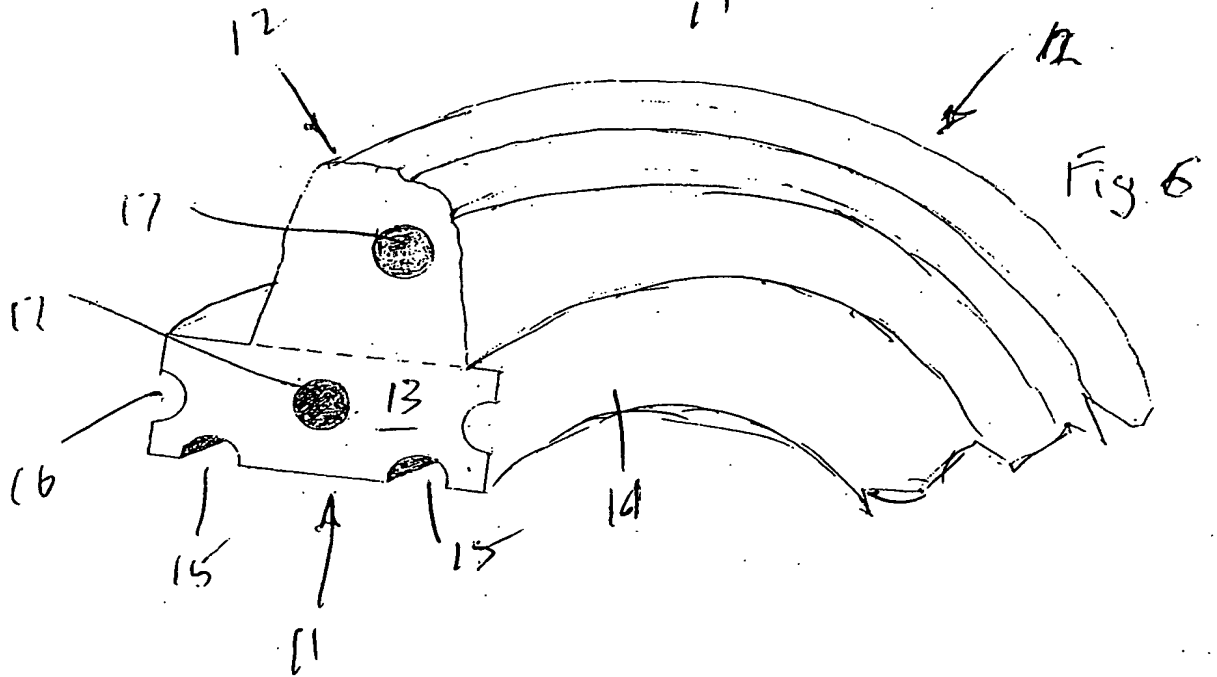
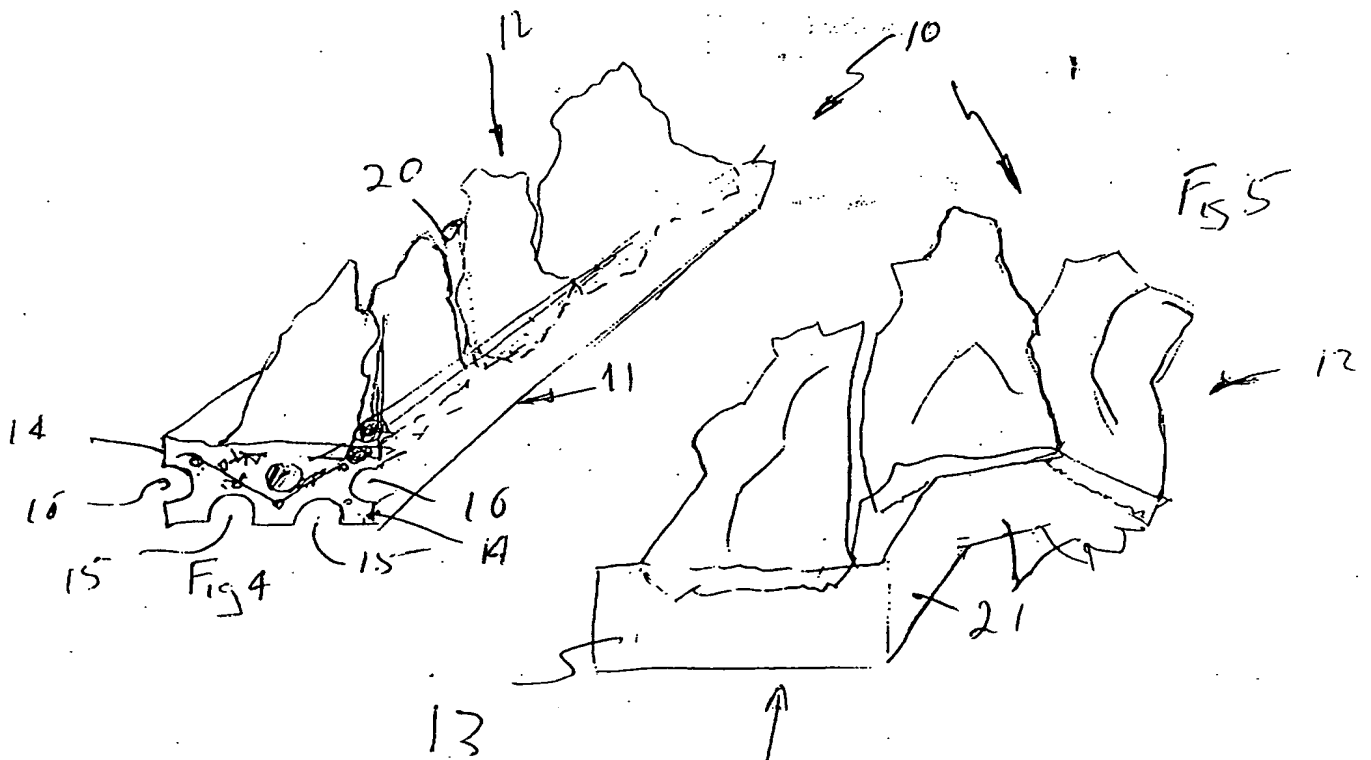
25 The above mentioned preferred embodiment has a number of advantages including easy installation and replacement of any wall members that may be damaged. The wall members 10 are easily transported and are reasonably simple and easy to erect. A further advantage is that a wall constructed of a plurality of the members 10 can provide for lawn and garden edging.

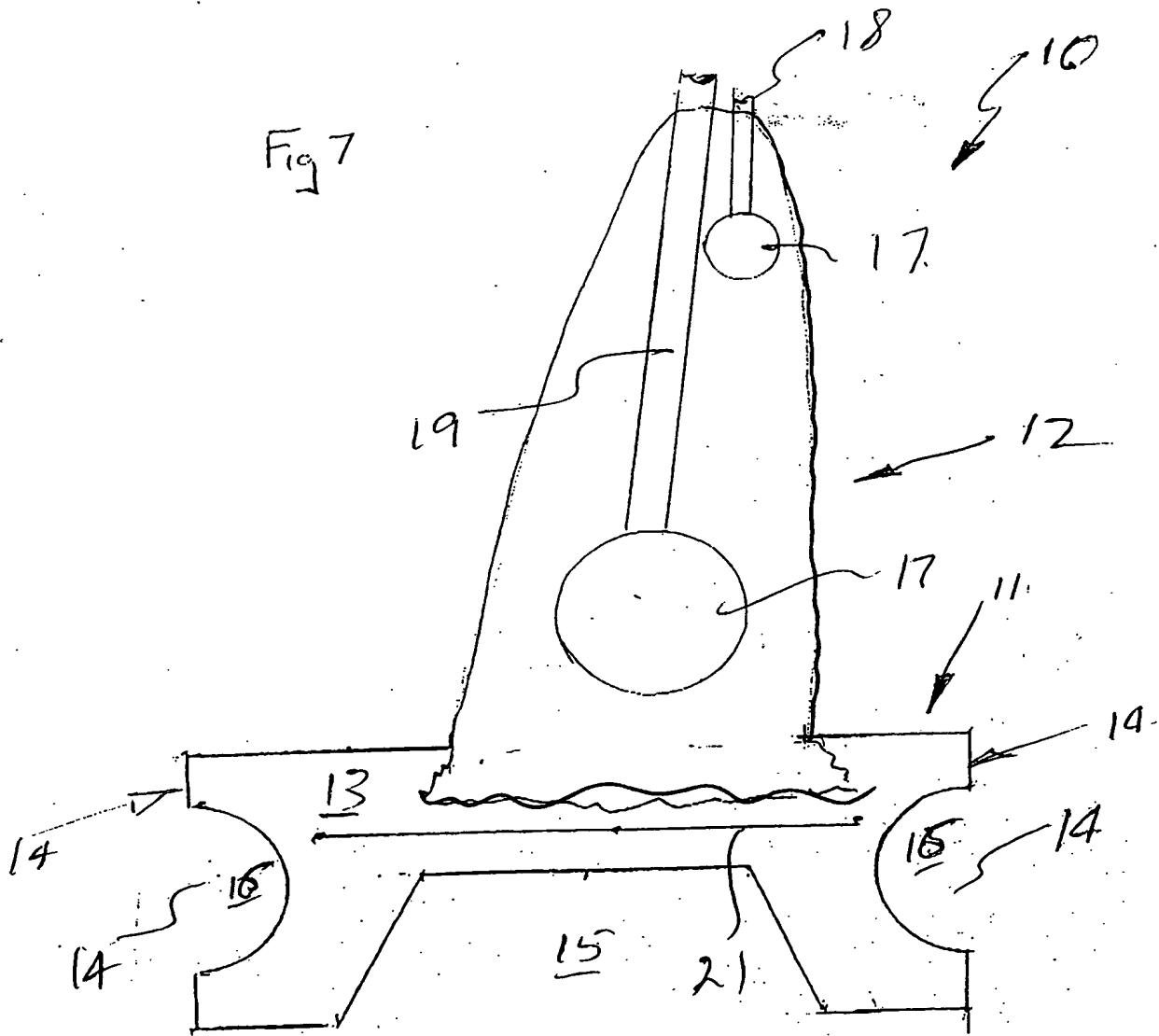
30 DATED this Thirteenth Day of September, 2002

Multi Systems Pty Ltd

Patent Attorneys for the Applicant
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